

50



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/764,560	12/12/1996	JUN KAKUTA	1083.1027/JD	4899

21171 7590 01/05/2005

STAAS & HALSEY LLP  
SUITE 700  
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

08/764,560

Applicant(s)

KAKUTA ET AL.

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed on 9/9/04 for the application filed on 12/12/96, priority 3/5/96.
2. Claims 28-29 are added.
3. Claims 1-29 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 17, 21, 25, 26, 27 and 28 are independent claims.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 29, which is dependent on claim 28, it is not clear what position or what size changes continuously within "continuously changing the position or the size when the position or the size of the window changes."

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wan (US Pat No. 5,530,795, 6/25/96, filed 2/15/94).

Regarding independent claim 28, Wan discloses:

- displaying, on a window displaying information controlled by the external application program, a transparent window through which contents of the information controlled by the external application program are seen (**col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24**: covering the contents of the information in a window by a transparent window shows the claimed displaying)
- detecting a position and a size of the window (**col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24**: moving and resizing the transparent window *to cover the application window exactly* inherently shows that the position and the size of the window are detected so that covering the application window can be performed exactly based on the size and position of the application window)
- positioning and sizing the transparent window to have a same position and size as the detected position and size of the window (**col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24**: covering the application window exactly by the transparent window shows that the two windows have the same position and sizes)
- changing the position or the size of the transparent window to be the same as the position and size of the window when the position or the size of the window changes (**col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24**: **moving the transparent window to cover the application window exactly** shows changing the position of the

Art Unit: 2178

transparent window to be the same as the position of the window when said position changes, and **resizing** the transparent window **to cover** the application window **exactly** shows changing the size of the transparent window to be the same as the size of the window when said size changes)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 2178

10. Claims 1-3, 17-18, 21-22, 25-27 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al. (US Pat No. 5,659,791, 8/19/97) in view of Khoyi et al. (US Pat No. 5,421,015), and Wan (US Pat No. 5,530,795, 6/25/96, filed 2/15/94).

With respect to independent claim 17, Nakajima discloses:

-- obtaining information from the external application program in accordance with the result of the analysis (col 2, lines 20-43; col 1, lines 46-61, the scrap object is integrated into a destination document or transferred between applications via a clipboard after the information is selected to be extracted from the document)

-- creating an information object in accordance with the obtained information and attribute information which includes object ID, object type and information type (col 6, lines 25-28, encapsulating of the selected information into an object is created automatically by the system to encapsulate the selected information in response to extracting and that is stored in the memory; col 5, lines 64-67, an object is a combination of data structure that hold *attribute data* and *functions that act upon the attribute data*; col 6, lines 64-67, giving a name for an object for *referencing the object*, which means each object must have an ID; col 5, lines 55-58, *recognizing of the information type to handle the reintegration of an object*)

It is noted that the "analyzing an event ...." step is inherently included in Nakajima since the obtaining step is performed in accordance with the result of the analysis.

Nakajima does not disclose the priority for showing of objects, time stamp, object link which are able to be modified after being created as an information object. Nakajima

Art Unit: 2178

also does not disclose showing the information object such that the information object appears different from any non-selected information in the external program.

Khoyi discloses:

- the object catalog including the object table and link table (figure 5)
- the object table includes object identifiers, object type and object location (figure 6)
- the link table includes link ID, link type, parent object identifiers, child object identifiers (figure 7)
- the linking of data objects (col 3, lines 12-20; col 43, lines 1-11)
- the ability of editing of the moved or copied objects (col 43, lines 66-67; col 44, lines 1-5)
- the changing the manner of drawing the information object on the basis of the attribute information (col 3, lines 22-36)
- *a new object is created at will by a user by modifying the object prototype in the object prototype table to change the characteristics of the object (col 3, lines 37-48, when the characteristics of an object is changed, the appearance of the object should be changed. In other words, the appearance of the selected object is different from the non-selected object)*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Khoyi into Nakajima to have the information objects, for user selecting of information, which include object ID, object type, object link and the ability of modifying objects after created. As disclosed, the attribute information includes object ID, object type and object link, parent object ID and child object ID which

Art Unit: 2178

are object ID of next object, thus motivating the including of the priority for showing objects and time stamp, which are other information data related to the object.

In addition, the fact that Nakajima shows that the information is selected as requested, transferred and integrated into a document of another application implies that the system can analyze an event for selecting information as well as creating an information object as desired.

In addition, Nakajima and Khoyi do not disclose *a transparent window* through which contents of the information controlled by the external application program is seen, said transparent window having a position and size being the same position and a same size as the application window, and wherein the position or the size of said window changes, said transparent window will automatically be changed to have the same position and size as that of said window.

*Wan discloses the transparent window is moved and resized preferably automatically to cover the application window exactly (col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24).*

*Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Wan to include the feature of being seen through the transparent window, the same size and position of the transparent window and the application window, and automatically change the transparent window when the position and the size of the application window changes for the following reason. First, it was well known that the application window underlying the transparent window must be seen through the transparent window due to the transparency feature. Further, the fact that the transparent window when automatically moving and resizing can cover exactly the*



*application window suggests the positions and the sizes of the two windows be the same so that one can cover exactly the other. Also, the fact that the transparent window moves and resizes to cover exactly the application window suggests that there is some change for the application window so that the transparent window needs to resize to adjust the position and the size with the application window.*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Wan into Nakajima and Khoyi to provide a transparency mechanism to present information, and easily view and edit information such that a user can see through a window to view and manipulate underlying data that would normally obscured.

With respect to claim 18, which is dependent on claim 17, Nakajima does not explicitly disclose returning the content of the selected information object to the original external application program from which the information object has been obtained or a specified external application program which is different from the original external application program.

Instead Nakajima discloses that the information is selected to be extracted from the document and transferred to a clipboard provided in the operating system using the scrap object. The selected information then is transferred from the clipboard to an application (col 1, lines 55-62). Nakajima also discloses that after the scrap object is created, it may be subsequently integrated into a document, including the document from which it originated (col 4, lines 53-56).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Nakajima to include the returning feature above to Nakajima because Nakajima provides the clipboard for transferring selected information between applications which include the original application and the application different from the original application.

Claim 21 is for a computer readable program code to perform the steps in claim 17, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 2 and 3 are the system for performing the step in claim 18, and are rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 22 is the program code means for performing the step in claim 18, and is rejected under the same rationale.

With respect to independent claim 1, Nakajima discloses, as in claim 17:

-- storing contents and attribute information of an information object to be shown, the attribute information being concerned with showing the information object and including object ID, object type, information type (col 6, lines 25-28, the selected information is created automatically by the system in response to extracting and these objects are stored in the memory; col 5, lines 64-67, an object is a combination of data structure that hold attribute data and functions that act upon the attribute data; col 6, lines 64-67, giving a name for an object for referencing the object which means each object must

Art Unit: 2178

have an ID; col 5, lines 55-58, recognizing of the information type to handle the reintegration of an object)

-- drawing information object on said transparent window in accordance with the content and attribute information relating to the display of the object stored in said information storing unit, and changing a manner of drawing the information object on the basis of the attribute information (col 3, lines 37-48, modifying objects by changing the objects' characteristics)

-- performing at least any one of processes including a process of controlling said information storing unit, a process of controlling said message transmitting unit and a process of controlling said drawing unit, in accordance with the result of the analysis reported from said event analyzing unit (col 2, lines 20-43; col 1, lines 46-61; col 3, lines 25-35; the information is selected, transferred and integrated into another document using a scrap object as a vehicle for interapplication transfer of information)

-- transmitting a control message to an external application program in order to get a selected information in the external application program (col 2, lines 20-43; col 1, lines 46-61; col 3, lines 25-35; transmitting messages is inherently included in the performing step, otherwise information selection, transferring, or integrating can not be performed)

-- analyzing all the events from an operation system and reporting a result of the analysis (col 2, lines 55-60, operating system provides code for a clipboard and code for implementing a user interface; col 3, lines 25-40, role of the mouse and the operating system in the drag-and-drop mechanism used to create a scrap object in which the movement of the mouse, the depression and the release of the mouse button, each

constitutes an event that is translated by the operating system into a message, and the operating system post most of the mouse messages into a message queue for a currently executing application program; reporting a result of the analysis is inherently included in the performed step since the performing step is carried out in accordance with the result of the analysis)

Nakajima does not disclose the priority for showing of objects, time stamp, object link which are able to be modified after being created as an information object. Nakajima also does not disclose showing the information object such that the information object appears different from any non-selected information in the external program.

Khoyi discloses:

- the object catalog including the object table and link table (figure 5)
- the object table includes object identifiers, object type and object location (figure 6)
- the link table includes link ID, link type, parent object identifiers, child object identifiers (figure 7)
- the linking of data objects (col 3, lines 12-20; col 43, lines 1-11)
- the ability of editing of the moved or copied objects (col 43, lines 66-67; col 44, lines 1-5)
- the changing the manner of drawing the information object on the basis of the attribute information (col 3, lines 22-36)
- *a new object is created at will by a user by modifying the object prototype in the object prototype table to change the characteristics of the object (col 3, lines 37-48, when the characteristics of an object is changed, the appearance of the object should be*

Art Unit: 2178

*changed. In other words, the appearance of the selected object is different from the non-selected object)*

In addition, Nakajima and Khoyi do not disclose a *transparent window* through which contents of the information controlled by the external application program is seen, said transparent window having a position and size being the same position and a same size as the application window, and wherein the position or the size of said window changes, said transparent window will automatically be changed to have the same position and size as that of said window.

*Wan discloses the transparent window is moved and resized preferably automatically to cover the application window exactly (col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24).*

*Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Wan to include the feature of being seen through the transparent window, the same size and position of the transparent window and the application window, and automatically change the transparent window when the position and the size of the application window changes for the following reason. First, it was well known that the application window underlying the transparent window must be seen through the transparent window due to the transparency feature. Further, the fact that the transparent window when automatically moving and resizing can cover exactly the application window suggests the positions and the sizes of the two windows be the same so that one can cover exactly the other. Also, the fact that the transparent window moves and resizes to cover exactly the application window suggests that there*

Art Unit: 2178

*is some change for the application window so that the transparent window needs to resize to adjust the position and the size with the application window.*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Wan into Nakajima and Khoyi to provide a transparency mechanism to present information, and easily view and edit information such that a user can see through a window to view and manipulate underlying data that would normally obscured.

Independent claim 25 includes part of limitations of claims 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Independent claim 26 is for the computer-readable program code for the method claim 25, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Independent claim 27 includes limitations disclosed in claim 1, and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

11. Claims 4-12, 16, 19-20, 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Khoyi, and Wan as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Person (*Using Windows 3.1*, 1993).

With respect to claim 19, which is dependent on claim 17, Nakajima, Khoyi, and Wan do not disclose the editing of the contents of the selected information objects after created.

Art Unit: 2178

Person discloses the editing the contents of the embedded objects in a document (p.235, 236, 521, 522).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have incorporated Person to Nakajima because Nakajima shows the transferring selected information objects and Person shows the editing the selected information objected after created.

With respect to claim 20, which is dependent on claim 17, Nakajima shows the combining objects when a scrap object integrated into another object of other document. Nakajima also discloses the class object that refers to a group of objects thus all scrap objects belong to the scrap object class have the same type of attributes and functions (col 3, lines 1-12). Nakajima does not show the editing process including moving objects, deleting objects, changing objects and creating objects.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have included moving, deleting, changing and creating objects since it was well known that a user can (a) move an object from one location to another by using the drag-and-drop mechanism, (b) delete an object by highlighting the object and pressing the delete key, (c) change an object by highlighting a portion of the object and pressing the delete key to remove that portion, (d) to create a new information object by selecting a portion of an object and save it under a different name.

Art Unit: 2178

Claim 23 is a computer program code means to perform the functions of claim 19, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 24 is a computer program code means to perform the functions of claim 20, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 4-10 are for the means included in the system to perform the functions disclosed in claim 20, and are rejected under the same rationale.

With respect to claim 11, which is dependent on claim 10, Nakajima, Khoyi, and Wan do not disclose that when a selected text or graphics is moved, the rest of the document is moved to maintain the relative location in the document.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have incorporated that feature into Nakajima, Khoyi, and Wan since it was well known in the art when a selected text or graphics is moved, the rest of the document is moved to maintain the relative location in the document.

With respect to claim 12, which is dependent on claim 10, the fact that a file subdirectory containing a plurality of files including the index file, if the index files is selected and deleted, the whole subdirectory is deleted, can be applied to the object group as claimed.



Art Unit: 2178

With respect to claim 16, which is dependent on claim 10, Nakajima does not disclose that an information object belonging to any one of information object groups and an information object which does not belong to any information object group are shown on the window by different ways. Person discloses the document including the information selected from different applications. The display of the whole document is different from the display of only the information from Microsoft Excel which is the graph and the table (page 208). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Person into Nakajima because Person shows the display of the combined document, including text and graphics, which is different from the document from Excel which includes only the graph and table.

12. Claims 13-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Khoyi, Wan, and Person as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Microsoft (*Microsoft Windows User's Guide*, 1992).

With respect to claim 13, which is dependent on claim 10, Nakajima, Khoy, Wand and Person do not disclose the relationship of the selected information object in the information object group is canceled when one information object in the information object group is selected.

Microsoft discloses that when deleting a link from an Cardfile object embedded in a Write document, both the link to the drawing and the drawing are removed from the document (p. 502).

Art Unit: 2178

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Microsoft into Nakajima, Khoy, Frank, Wand and Person since the fact that the *removing* of the link to the drawing and the drawing when deleting a link from an object embedded in the document suggests selecting the object before deleting and canceling the relationship of the object and other objects embedded in the document.

With respect to claims 14 and 15, Nakajima, Khoyi, Person and Microsoft do not disclose that when the two objects are selected and the hierarchical relationship is given to the selected information objects to form the information object group, and when one of them is deleted, the other is removed, too.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified to include in Nakajima, Khoyi, Person and Microsoft said forming the information object group based on the selected objects and their given hierarchical relationship and said deleting feature since it was well known that if two selected objects has a hierarchical relationship, when one is deleted, the other is removed, too due to the inheritance.

13. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wan (US Pat No. 5,530,795, 6/25/96, filed 2/15/94).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 29, which is dependent on claim 28, Wan does not explicitly disclose continuously changing the position or the size when the position or the size of the window changes.

However, Wan does teach changing the position or the size when the position or the size of the window changes (**col 2, line 66 to col 3, line 24: moving the transparent window to cover the application window exactly** shows changing the position of the transparent window to be the same as the position of the window when said position changes, and **resizing the transparent window to cover the application window exactly** shows changing the size of the transparent window to be the same as the size of the window when said size changes).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Wan to include the continuous feature of changing the position or the size when the position or the size of the window changes for the following reason. Due to the exact covering of the transparent window over the application window, it is suggested that whenever the position and the size of the application window change, the position and the size of the transparent window must change accordingly. In other words, the exact covering of the transparent window over the application window suggests the continuous feature of changing the position or the size of the transparent window. The combination of the continuous feature to the changing the position or the size of the transparent window of Wan would provide the flexibility of changing the position or the size of the transparent window according to the

Art Unit: 2178

change of the application window to satisfy the exact covering of one window over the other.

### ***Response to Arguments***

14. Applicant's arguments filed 9/9/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Wan does not disclose that as the position/size of the window changes, the size/position of the transparent window changes, as recited in independent claim 17 since Wan appears to disclose that a single snapshot is taken and moved/resized and thus, the position/size of the transparent window does not change (Remarks, page 10).

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Wan discloses that "the snapshot image of the output of subject application 6 is then copied into the transparent window created by the transparent application. The transparent window 7 is then moved and resized preferably automatically to cover the application window 6 exactly" (col 3, lines 2-7).

Clearly, the transparent window is moved and resized, not the snapshot image. And thus, the position/size of the transparent window changes according to the moving and resizing.

### ***Conclusion***

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dawes et al. (US Pat No. 4,890,098, 12/26/89).

Jaaskelainen, Jr. (US Pat No. 6,002,397, 12/14/99, 9/30/97).

Brown et al. (US Pat No. 6,278,448 B1, 8/21/01, filed 2/17/98).

Cecco et al. (US Pat No. 6,310,631 B1, 10/30/01, filed 4/25/97).

Salesky et al. (US Pat No. 6,343,313 B1, 1/29/02, filed 3/25/97, priority 3/26/96).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4125. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

Art Unit: 2178

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Clh  
12/13/04



**STEPHEN HONG**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EX**